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The Almagest

Thursday, March 21, 1996 | *LSU in Shreveport* | Volume 29, Number 7

SGA Candidate Requirement Causes Confusion

Amy Cavanaugh
Almagest

This year's SGA elections have gotten off to a rocky start. With Scott Wolf and John Braud graduating, the offices of vice president and president are open. Due to a difference in interpretation of the GPA requirement for vice president and president, the election has been postponed a week and is now planned for March 25-29.

The interpretation of Article III of the constitution became critical in determining whether senator-at-large Micheal Scales would be contested by senator-at-large William Anderson for the vice president's seat. The article states that "To be eligible to take the offices of SGA president and vice president, a person, at the time of taking office, must have a cumulative GPA at LSUS of no less than 2.5."

In a vote to change the constitutional GPA requirement to 2.0, 19 students voted against the revision and seven students voted for it.

Anderson has an overall GPA of over 2.5, but an LSUS GPA of 2.4. SGA sponsor Gloria Raines determined that "cumulative" means overall, including LSUS and all grades earned at other institutions. Other sources said if cumulative meant overall, then cumulative at LSUS clearly means overall at LSUS.

Raines said the "at LSUS" portion of the article was meant to attract transfer students to run for office. Raines said it was believed by past LSUS SGA members that transfer students may have done poorly at another school, and, therefore, their GPA would not meet the criteria.

Dana Foster,

SGA President Candidate

Micheal Scales,

SGA Vice President Candidate

William Anderson,

SGA Vice President Candidate

Raines said the article is poorly written, and Anderson should not be penalized for it.

Anderson will be allowed to run against Scales.

Scales said "I think he should be able to run. It is good to have competition. I would hate to become vice president just because there was nobody to run against me."

Anderson echoed Scales view on the need for competition: "I'm happy to run, and I'm glad that everything has been straightened out. I'm glad that more than one person can run, because no matter who wins, we will both have a greater appreciation for the office having worked for it."

SGA Liberal Arts senator Dana Foster is running unopposed for SGA president. The president and vice president of SGA receive scholarships for tuition and fees.

Foster is also the library committee undergraduate representative, but he has not attended any of the library meetings. In his defense Foster offered the following explanation:

"I have no excuse for missing the meetings last semester, because I was sent several notices. This semester I have not been sent any notices of the meetings. I have tried several times to find out about the meetings, and I went by to talk to the dean. She said committee member Chang Ho Hsieh is in charge of sending the notices, and I put in a call to him today, but have not heard from him. As soon as I hear from him, I will be sure to attend the meetings."

According to Scales, SGA's public relations contact, Foster has not missed any meeting this semester or last semester. "I am positive that Dana Foster, William Anderson, nor I missed a single meeting this year," Scales said.

Grant Helps LSUS Japanese Program

Kirk Dickey
Almagest

A Japanese Studies program at LSUS is hoping to help bridge the cultural gap that Japan and the United States currently have. Mieko U. Peek is teaching two Japanese language courses at LSUS this year thanks to a grant from the Department of Defense. She is also trying to balance the study of language with an appreciation for Japanese culture.

Peek, who has an MA from both the University of Northern Iowa and the International Christian University of Japan, feels that if we better understand each other's culture, we can relate more. This would allow for better communication and more business. "Just think," Peek said, "if you go to Japan they speak English to you. If a Japanese person comes to America they speak English to you." Learning Japanese could speed up business and allow for more appreciation for that person as well. Peek said that she would like to be "a bridge, not in just the business world, but in a cultural way too."

The Defense Department obviously agrees with her. Under the National Security Education Program, LSUS was awarded a two year grant worth $269,000 for this language program. This money is being put to good use, by awarding scholarships to LSUS students enrolled in Japanese 101, offering tuition to take Japanese Politics at Centenary College, and financing a trip to Japan for some of her other students. The Japanese culture festival in the fall, as well as a program for teachers slated for late summer, are results of this grant.

Currently, there are seven students enrolled in the Japanese studies courses. This is about the same number that enrolled last year, according to Peek. This tends to make the class more tight and allows more attention to be put on the individual.

Jacinta Ingram, one of Peek's students said that she is really enjoying the class. "She is real fast," Ingram said, "but she is reasonable. She will bring it down for you, if you need it." Ingram is one of the students hoping to make the trip to Japan this summer.

COMEDY ACT COMING TO LSUS

Shelly Cole
Almagest

The comedy act of "Red Johnny and the Round Guy" will perform their stand-up routine in the University Center Theater Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

"Red Johnny and the Round Guy" has been a popular comedy act on the college curcuit. The two comedians have appeared on A&E's "Caroline's Comedy Hour," "The Apollo" and several MTV comedy shows.

Student Activities Board President Jason Campbell said, "Their stand-up sketch is interactive comedy with a lot of college humor." "Red Johnny and the Round Guy" have tapped into the college experience and ampliphied it with an energetic, whimsical act.

Admission for the show will be free to students with IDs and $3 for the general public.

Amnesty International Starts Local Chapter

Shelly Cole
Almagest

Judy Koveleski and Becky Lear are starting a local chapter of Amnesty International, an international human rights organization, at LSUS. Their first meeting has been rescheduled for March 28 at the common hour in Bronson Hall 465.

According to Koveleski, the local chapter will focus on the release of "prisoners of conscience." She explained that "prisoners of conscience" are those who have not used or advocated the use of violence in any way.

"They are arrested for advocating human rights and democracy," Koveleski said. "We will be writing to the heads of states and foreign ministers for their release, access to their families and an attorney, and to seize torture."

Koveleski said she became interested in the organization when she was 19. She said she had gone to a U2 concert while traveling abroad and saw an Amnesty International Poster.

"I have a real bleeding hearty," Koveleski said, "and I feel as Americans we are truly blessed with all the rights we have."

According to Koveleski, there is a common misconception about the organization that it is very liberal. She said that is not the case.

"You have to care about the basic human rights around the world. I feel it is important in order to protect our own rights in the United States," Koveleski said.

Koveleski said that although the organization as a whole does not advocate the death penalty, that issue will not be a focus for the local chapter; however, the issue may be debated and discussed to review all viewpoints.

Koveleski said she is planning to have several guest speakers that will focus on the good that Amnesty International does. She hopes one such speaker will be a former prisoner of conscience.

In order to be a legitimate organization, Koveleski said 10 members must be signed up. She said she hopes to surpass that number at next Thursday's meeting.

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Jason Craig	*Thony Martino*	*Peter Tidovski*
Jason Culbreath	*Danny Mengle*	*ChrisTimmons*
Jonathen(J.B.)Emery	*James Moore*	*Matt Titus*
Todd Guthrie	*Todd Mulford*	*David Wicker*
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8th Annual Language Competition held at LSUS

Brittany Manson
Almagest

The eighth annual LSUS language competition was held on March 15, starting at 8:30, in the University Center. The competition included the Shreveport schools of Caddo Magnet, Captain Shreve, Booker T. Washington, St. Mark's, First Baptist, and St. Joseph's. It also included Alexandria High School and Neville High School in Monroe, with each having approximately 10-12 people represented by spectators and competitors.

The competition consisted of three different categories in two languages on two different levels. The intermediate level competitions, which consist of first and second year students as well as some middle school students, started at 9:00 with the French oral proficiency in the Webster Room with Megan Conway serving as judge. The Spanish oral proficiency as held in the Caddo-Bossier Room with Susan Cooke and International Club member Gabriel Gonzalez judging. The French literary reading, which is judged on pronunciation, was held in the DeSoto Room with Joe Patrick judging. The Spanish literary reading occurred in the Red River Room and serving as judges were Lynn Walford and International Club President Rachelle Smith.

The advanced competitions, consisting of third and fourth year students, started at 10 a.m. The advanced competition included the French oral proficiency in the DeSoto Room judged by Joe Patrick, the Spanish oral proficiency in the Red River Room judged by Lynn Walford and Rachelle Smith, the French on-sight reading and comprehension in the Webster Room judged by Megan Conway, and the Spanish on-sight reading and comprehension in the Caddo-Bossier Room judged by Susan Cooke and Gabriel Gonzalez.

The third category consisted of those competitors who are native speakers in either French of Spanish.

This year's competition also included a songs and skits competition among schools with Megan Conway, Susan Cooke, Joe Patrick, and Lynn Walford judging.

Here is a listing of each of the winners. In the French oral proficiency Christine Nichols won at the intermediate level representing St. Mark's. Clint Bruce won at the advanced level representing Caddo Magnet. In the French literary competition Michael Gusko won at the intermediate level and Michelle Kingham won for advanced with both representing Caddo Magnet.

The Spanish oral competition winners were Emily Adkins for intermediate and Natalie Vaughan for advanced representing Caddo Magnet. The Spanish literary winners were Aleta McGreu for intermediate and Simona Pramanik for advanced representing Caddo Magnet.

The native speaker winners were Benjamin Huille winning in French and representing Caddo Magnet and Alejandra Arboledo winning for Spanish representing Alexandria High School.

The skit competition was won by St. Joseph's with Booker T. Washington finishing second.

Lynn Walford, competition coordinator, stated that, "It is a good exercise for those students thinking of studying foreign language in college."

Speaker from National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association addresses SPJ

Shelly Cole
Almagest

National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association member Stacy Sullivan visited LSUS last Thursday to speak to the campus Society of Professional Journalists.

Sullivan, who is also the politics and government editor at The Times, emphasized the need to establish diversity in our area's newsrooms. Traditionally Shreveport newsrooms have not equally represented our area's population, Sullivan said.

"We are surpassing the 50-percent minority population", and issues for those groups have been undercovered, Sullivan said. "We need to plug into those issues and one way to do that is to have our staff reflect our population," he said.

Sullivan told the chapter that he feels it is important for them to "tackle some of these issues [in their reporting for the Almagest] as well."

According to Sullivan, racial populations are not the only groups that need equal coverage. Issues of the lesbian and gay community as well as heterosexual groups should be addressed, he said.

One of the issues discussed during the meeting was the issue of gay marraiges. Forum columnist Chuck Fellers said it may be easier for people in our area to accept the idea if it were given another label; he suggested gay marraiges be referred to as "legal unions." Some others in the meeting said that regardless of the label the issue was given, readers would still see it as a "gay" issue. Whatever gay marraiges are to be called, Sullivan said the issue is still one that is important for many readers in our community and should, therefore, be covered without bias.

Shreveport is not just white, heterosexual, wealthy males. Shreveport is home to the poor, the wealthy, the young, the old, gay and straight, Asians, Hispanics, Caucasians, African-Americans and many more groups. Sullivan said he is working to bring these groups' issues to the forefront at The Times because these groups are part of the community, and that alone makes their issues important.

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Journalists must follow their responsibilities

David Eleuterius
Columnist

Recently I have had the opportunity to talk to two longtime area journalists, John Andrew Prime of The Times and Gary Hines of KTBS. Both of them mentioned concerns over developing trends in journalism, and when two people make identical observations without having previously conferred with one another, there is something to it. What they mentioned as crucial to being taken seriously as a journalist was also what they felt had been on the decline, and that was proximity, lack of bias and accuracy.

Proximity means how a story affects the reader. A story's importance is directly related to the degree of impact it will have upon those who read it. This means that coverage should be dictated by the public interest.

Objectivity is definitely a concern. There are always two or more sides to a story, and the reporting should reflect that. Attack journalism, on the rise for many years now, chooses only one slant and compromises the journalist's ability to see the whole story, and thus short-changes the reader. While it is true that the press should be a watchdog on society, so should we watch our own ranks for biased reporting. While I don't believe it is possible for a journalist to be completely objective, the journalist owes the reader a balanced story regardless of how the journalist feels. When a story is so tainted with bias that it turns the reader off, readers begin to question not only that journalist but all journalists (which is not good considering that public opinion puts us just above lawyers and used car salesmen to begin with).

Accuracy is a major concern. Without accuracy, our stories might as well fall into the category of backyard-fence gossip. Names, places, dates— all of these particulars must be correct, because journalists stake their reputations upon it. This is how trust is forged and maintained, as much as with sources as the public. Spelling is definitely a concern. In this day and age of spell- checkers, there is simply no excuse for misspellings (i.e. 'althernative,' 'descent' for 'decent'). I know that when I am reading an article credibility goes down to zero when I see such careless errors. If a journalist doesn't care enough to use proper English, how can we be sure that this carelessness does not extend to other areas? There are two tools at our disposal: the dictionary and the AP stylebook. The tired expression of "when in doubt, check it out," will always be valid.

Editorials are a different animal. I have my own feelings about them. They are simply opinions, but that does not exclude the journalist from responsibility. First, when writing an editorial, one should stay with the point. To start with an assertion and then to drift off-topic is unfair to the reader as well as irresponsible. A great editorial is one that is logically ordered and guides the reader through the reasons and evidence supporting the editorial's assertion. The reasoning must follow; when fallacy fills an argument it stops the reader like a roadblock. When a reader has to stop to reread in an attempt to follow the logic (or lack thereof), or because the prose is long-winded, the journalist has failed. Effectiveness can be measured by what is NOT there. After all, brevity is the soul of wit, is it not?

Another point that needs to be examined is sweeping generalities. When writing editorials, there is nothing wrong with opinions voiced based from personal experience (i.e. it is my experience ... in my view). However, whenever a journalist steps outside of this arena and begins to state OPINIONS as FACTS, evidence from credible sources must be supplied or else the argument will not hold water. To make broad sophomoric assumptions about how other people feel without the facts to back it up insults the reader's intelligence, and alienates the reader, the ultimate failure as a journalist.

It is said the pen is mightier than the sword. However, we cannot forget the teachings of John Locke. The power of the press exists because the PEOPLE have granted journalists this power. Without this public trust in us, our words are merely scratchings without meaning or impact. When it becomes clear that a journalist has eschewed these responsibilities to follow a different agenda than the public interest, one no longer writes for the people, but rather an audience of one.

Respectfully, I remain
David Eleuterius
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The Best of Charming! by Flynn Dulle

Spanking our Professors

In a recent issue of the Almagest, we reported on two professors, Dr. Robert Fraga, Mathematics, and Dr. Jeffrey Sadow, History, who many believe deserve to be granted tenure yet were turned down. We have not, however, addressed the fact that Dr. Kyle Pierce, HPE, has been turned down two years in a row despite several criteria that he has indeed met.

According to Pierce tenure is based on three major criteria: service, research and teaching. Pierce's community service is overwhelming. He is a volunteer at the Carver YMCA, is active with Kids Against Tobacco and helps with the CELT program at LSUS. Pierce has also served LSUS well in bringing weightlifting competitions to our campus. Most recently Pierce helped to organize a competition which brought competitors from several countries and which put LSUS in the international spotlight.

Pierce has also met the criterium of research. His most recent published work will appear in an upcoming Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research.

Pierce said some felt he lacked tenure-credibility in the area of teaching; he said he doesn't understand why they would feel this way. "My student and peer evaluations have been fine; I ranked 30th with student evaluations," said Pierce. "If they don't count, why do they still do them?"

Similarly, Sadow said he also ranked high in student evaluations, and Fraga too has received many letters of support.

The only thing Pierce lacks is convention. His hair is in a long ponytail, he has a mustache, and he wears jeans to class. Sadow isn't exactly conventional with his dress style either, but I attended his class to learn about political science, not style. Fraga is "the new guy in town," and Interim Provost Stuart Mills seems to want to "spank" him.

What are we doing to thank our professors? Nothing. We are pushing them away, and in a time when education is suffering and competition is rising, our administrators need to forget about campus politics and focus on the real issue at hand.

These professors teach; they educate. They may have unique styles, but their styles obviously work. These professors are the ones who care about their students, who educate themselves on new ideas, and who service our community. These are the professors who we need. Grow up and show a little respect.

Shelly Cole
Editor

Editors Correction:

In the last issue of the *Almagest*, Liberal Arts SGA senator candidate Ted McCastlain's name was misprinted as Chad McCastlain. We apologize for the error.

Letters to the Editor:

Student Objects to Tenure Decision

I have tried to figure out why Dr. Fraga's bid for tenure was turned down. the more I though about it, the more confused I became. Dr. Fraga has been at LSUS for approximately one year. He is an exciting and wonderful teacher as evidenced by his students evaluations. In his capacity of chair of the department of mathematics, he is a respected leader and a proven "go-getter" as evidenced by accomplishments since his arrival. He is an exceptional scholar as evidenced by his vitae. There are probably dozens of instructors on this campus who have outstanding vitae's, but does that make them excellent teachers, leaders, or role models? I dare not say.

A slogan floating around campus states something to the effect of "let's get back to the basics of teaching." Excuse me? Where are the "good 'ol let's get back to the basic of teaching" at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon? I can tell you where they are not, and that is in their office serving the students. However, take a peek in the math department and you will usually see Dr. Fraga zipping through the halls, bursting with energy, spouting new ideas, occasionally helping a student in the math lab, all hours of the day, including after 3:00. He is an excellent instructor who cares about the students. I have never seen anyone so excited about teaching.

Not only is Dr. Fraga an excellent teacher, he is a proven grant writer. This aspect itself is worth tenure!! In these times of merciless cuts, money is hard to come by. The fact that we have someone in our midst who knows how to get money, and is not shy about it is a tremendous asset. The math department will surely continue to flourish under his guidance.

Dr. Fraga is a hardworking, honest and dedicated instructor whose capabilities are limitless. He is many things to many people. He is always positive and is an excellent role model for all. He goes above and beyond his call of duty with numerous hours of community service.

So I ask the question, why wasn't Dr. Fraga awarded tenure? What is wrong? This man has done nothing but good for this university, for us, the students, and now we may lose him because the administration can't deem him worthy of tenure. Dr. Mills stated "we spank our children sometimes." I would like to know what he really means by this statement. I spank my children when they have done something wrong, something terribly bad. Again, Dr. Fraga has done nothing but good for this university and for it's students. This whole catastrophe is embarrassing. Is the administration so blind that they can not see what an asset Dr. Fraga is to LSUS, or, is there some hidden agenda that we, the students, don't know about?;

Christi Tyson
Sophomore, College of Sciences

Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. *The Almagest* reserves the right to edit letters.

'Pro-Choice. . . A Cowardly Euphemism'

Kurt Milton Pickett
Columnist

The number of critics who deny that Camille Paglia is perhaps one of the most significant social writers of our time is rapidly declining. A professor of Humanities at the University of Arts in Philadelphia, Paglia sent shockwaves across the globe with her first books, *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson* and *Sex, Art, and American Culture*, in which she criticizes virtually every aspect of the American liberal establishment as despotic and mindless. Her writings precipitated wide-spread rebuttals from a number of traditionally liberal institutions, particularly feminist and gay rights organizations, which labeled her "self-hating" and "misogynist." Considering herself a feminist, and having been public about her lesbianism for decades, her critics were mind-boggled that she would profess what they considered to be clearly sexist and homophobic concepts.

Since Paglia's writings have greatly influenced my thought, and since abortion is an increasingly important American political issue (one that, today, often decides elections), I thought it appropriate to share some of Paglia's clarifying ideas on the subject, as well as share some of my own.

In Paglia's latest assault on complacent thinking, *Vamps and Tramps*, Paglia says, "The problem with the abortion rights crusade is that it is locked in a secular mind-set of me-first entitlement." In her attack on the tactics of the pro-choice movement, Paglia asserts, quite correctly, (though never explicitly) that the goals of the pro-abortion movement are justifiable only from a pagan perspective, and that, because the Judeo-Christian perspective has, as of late, dictated what decisions are acceptable in American culture, abortion supporters, rather than assert a pagan ideology, attempt to avoid scrutiny by denying the pagan foundation of pro-abortion thinking.

Beginning with the term "pro-choice" itself, says Paglia, the movement seeks to deny that its followers support abortion, and I could not agree more. So-called "pro-choice" activists do not support a choice, they (and I) support, quite contrarily, abortion on demand—the unabridged endorsement of abortion by the United States federal government. Either you support the legalization of abortion or you don't; whether you personally choose to have one or not is secondary, but the "pro-choice" camp has attempted to make this determiner the primary consideration of debate, thereby making the battle one of *individual* freedom—an ideal supported by virtually every American—instead of calling it what it is, a battle for the freedoms of a group, women. But more importantly, it cannot be accepted that the battle is one over individual freedoms simply because there are *always* two individuals involved—the mother and the unborn child. In other words, the very definition of the movement by its framers is misleading and dishonest, and this, according to Paglia—this denial of the truth and these subversive attempts to manipulate the debate by "beaming Betty Crockers" like Patricia Schroeder—has resulted in fueling a now formidable abortion opposition.

Along this Judeo-Christian-appeasing party-line, the so-called pro-choice movement has ridiculously denied that *abortion is murder*. Being a student of biology myself, I completely agree with Paglia on this point—namely, that abortion is murder. Any fantastic attempt to show that a fetus does not meet all the defined "prerequisites of life" is preposterous because such definitions of life are completely subjective and artificial. Life is life; science defines that society may understand, not (as "pro-choicers" apparently believe) so that the resulting artificial components can be used to claim that life is not life. One of the hallmark laws of biology states that life cannot come from lifelessness; if "pro-choicers" were correct—that a living child comes from a lifeless conglomeration of organic chemical matter, the fetus—it would mean the undoing of centuries of scientific reason beginning with Frascesco Redi in 1668, and a return to the preposterous Biogenesis theories of Needham and his blind contemporaries. And although to admit that abortion is murder may seem inhuman, Paglia believes quite the contrary, claiming that the pagan system is more natural than the Judeo-Christian. She alludes to art for her support (as she believes it to be the only accurate and reliable record of history), specifically to Picasso's *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*, where "slaughter and harvest [are] symbolized by the sickle crescent of the moon goddess," saying that society may need to sacrifice, perhaps gruesomely, in order to survive.

As a radical feminist—one who accepts the matriarchal anthropology put forth by Morgan in *Mother Right*, that women created society and should, therefore, "rightly" have a significant say in it—I believe, as Paglia believes, in the complete liberation of women, that she may return to her place as society's architect. This—as was said for years by the more logical feminist intellectuals of the American suffragist period—can only be accomplished if women are liberated, not only from men, but also from nature. Paglia makes this point while comparing herself to the Marquis de Sade, who believed that nature should be denied because it is inherently limit-defining and therefore oppressive. Women's complete freedom presupposes women's reproductive freedom; toward this end, we must support abortion vehemently!

That Paglia is virtually ignored because of her "in your face" manner of asserting the reinsertion of pagan philosophy into the abortion debate is unfortunate for those of us who hope for the complete liberation of women. The new regime of pro-abortioners must reconfigure the debate around abortion's pagan paragon, admit the truths about abortion, and stop trying to make a clearly pagan practice fit into the Judeo-Christian model of civilization. Paglia sees this and is one of the only lights in the midnight of mediocre feminist dogma that, conservatively, refuses to examine itself. As Paglia puts it, "To rescue feminism, we must give religion its due but require it to stay in its place. Again, Judeo-Christian is only half our tradition. Paganism has other paradigms to offer."

Q & A: Students' Opinions on Summer Commencement

Question: Do you think LSUS should have summer commencement?

Answers:

Jasdeep Dalawari - "I don't even care."
Tracy Nectoux - "Yes, most definitely. If I were graduating in the summer, I would not want to wait until fall to walk."
Latitia Pemberton - "Yes. The summer is a convenient time for relatives to come and visit you."
Valerie Colvin - "I don't think they should get rid of it."
Kelly Haydel - "If they decide to get rid of it, they should have it this summer and wait and allow the students to have an option to decide on it."
Lea Ann White - "Yes. I cannot imagine getting through with school and having to wait to graduate."

A Shakespeare not for all

Merrell Knighten
Guest Columnist

Shakespeare is as Shakespeare does. Wait . . . wrong film. Rewind, whirr, clunk: "They're baaaaaack."

That's better. The National Shakespeare Company, which last year brought a stylized, almost-Oriental Midsummer Night's Dream to LSUS, returned recently with an equally stylized, equally non-traditional Hamlet, and the production was (a) even better than last time or (b) even worse than last time or (c) you paid for it, so you decide.

But check your expectations at the door. The Bard comes with more flavors than Baskin Robbins, and most of them are worth sampling. I've seen Olivier play Othello in grotesque blackface and almost make it work. I've seen Elizabeth Taylor deep-breathing her way through Cleopatra while nearly wearing a wardrobe that cost more than many whole films. I've seen The Tempest set on another planet, with a glass-domed tin man as Ariel, the sprite of the air, and I've seen Romeo sing the praises of Juliet beneath a Brooklyn fire escape.

I've seen Falstaff heaving his bulk up a sapling at a Shakespeare-in-the-park festival, and for a while there both Shakespeare and the sapling looked at risk. I've seen Shakespeare on stage, in stone amphitheaters and wood, once in a puppet show at a mall (Bard in a Box) and one really memorable Midsummer Night's Dream on a mountain top beneath the stars.

And they were all Shakespeare, and because they were all Shakespeare, at some level they all worked. The NSC Hamlet had its limitations and its failures: A touring company traveling on the fees schools like LSUS can pay must limit its numbers, so a large-cast production like Hamlet requires that some of the players take on multiple roles. Rather than cloak this role-doubling in artifice with backstage changes and disguise, the players sat at the perimeter of the stage, changed their outer wraps to indicate the changes in personae, and rejoined the action.

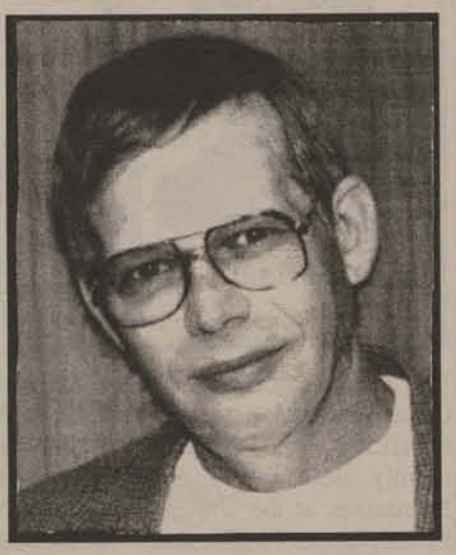
Usually the players carried off these multiple personalities with aplomb. Claudius was appropriately smug, Ophelia adequately (and appropriately) inadequate, Polonius a predictably pompous bore, and Hamlet . . . .

Hamlet was a problem, and not one of NSC triumphs. It is not enough, in the title role, to play Hamlet as a melancholic, though he certainly was that. It is not enough, in the title role, to play Hamlet as indecisive, though he certainly was that. It is not enough, in the title role, to play Hamlet as Will and Ted's Danish Adventure, and this Hamlet did exactly that. But Shakespeare's Hamlet—any version of Shakespeare's Hamlet—must be above all else a dangerous man, a man capable of killing with malice aforethought and equally well without it, a man who can plausibly make a population implosion of the whole of the Danish court.

Olivier could do that—convey that ominous potential—with a gesture alone. Burton could do that with just words, words, words. Even Mel Gibson managed that quality—that threat—though he looked a little pained about the whole thing. The NSC Hamlet, unfortunately, looked and sounded—and acted—like a recent graduate of acne cream commercials.

But if this production had flaws, it had flaws, it had equally its virtues. The exposed role changes allowed the players not actively engaged to support the action with a variety of percussion accompaniment—a gong, a variety of bells, and certain other nontraditional noisemakers, one of which, on close inspection, turned out to be exactly what it sounded like—a windchime of forks and spoons. That accompaniment was surprisingly effective. Hamlet is in places—large places—a dark and eerie play, and adept use of the on-stage percussion enhanced that atmosphere.

Was this production a traditional Hamlet? No, and those who came expecting such were almost certainly disappointed. But was it valid, defensible Shakespeare? Yes, and those who came expecting entertainment, as the Bard's original audiences did, almost certainly found something to enjoy.



Dr. Merrell Knighten
Assisstant Dean, Libral Arts
Guest Columnist

Attention

LSUS Students!

SGA elections are being held the week of

March 25-29

Don't forget to

vote by phone

for your president, vice-president, and college senators

798-LSUS

Pain Leads to Gain in Getting The Smokes Out

Rachel Ginsburg
Guest Columnist

The only thing worse than a nonsmoker is an ex-smoker. These are the last people in the world you would want to get stuck with in close quarters. You'll never enjoy another cigarette!

For those who cannot go without their beloved cigarette, I would never tell you, "You ought to quit!" I've been there.

I used to hate the annual National Smoke-Out held by the American Cancer Society. Why would people want to torture themselves (and the people they work with) for 24 hours with nicotine withdrawal? I'd rather have a root canal!

I loved my cigarettes! I would alter my schedule around them, allowing myself ample time to have that morning wake-up smoke with coffee. I would always leave early for breaks so I get a whole cigarette smoked. As far as lunch or dinner was concerned, if there was a time limit, well, I would have to eat a little faster or eat less, in order to get that dessert cigarette. After all, you could eat at your desk. Who knew when you would get the next urge to smoke, and smoking areas were getting hard to come by in those days!

I hear people say how they smoke two and a half packs daily and they need to quit. They probably don't smoke enough yet. I was smoking three to four packs a day and didn't want to quit!

I haven't smoked a cigarette in over three years, and I would not suggest to anyone that they quit-unless they really want to. Nicotine is a more addictive drug than heroin, and the withdrawal from these drugs is painful. You've got to want to quit badly enough to go through the withdrawal.

I can't tell you how to quit. I can only tell you how I did it. Perhaps my method will work for you.

My desire to quit was not an overnight decision, nor did I quit in a day. I didn't give it up on the first try, either.

I could start by telling you all the reasons why I wanted to quit, like the smell, the money, the uncomfortable places smokers have to go to enjoy a cigarette, the burns, the makeshift ashtrays, my health. Those things don't matter to a person who is addicted. There is an immense threshold for pain!

When I got to the point where the pain of smoking became worse than of not smoking, I began to take action.

My first active step was to not buy any more cigarettes. I had a pack and half left. I was scared. I had to make them last through the hell I knew I would go through.

I made sure when I lit up, that I could go no longer without the nicotine for that period of time. I began with an hour and increased the time length. I would smoke only enough to satisfy the nicotine craving and then put the cigarette out. I would re-light the same cigarette next time. This would allow me to make them last. I also realized the bitter taste and lingering smell, which would increase my desire not to smoke. This continued for about two weeks, at the end of which time, I was smoking one cigarette every two days.

It was then that a friend told me,"It's time."

I froze. I didn't think I could do it.

The people I worked with agreed to allow me two weeks of behavior swings before they would start to react to my bitchy outbreaks. At first, I laughed. After the second day, I was grateful that they kept their promise.

I had the phone number of my friend who had gone through this before, and when I would wake up at 2 a.m., crying and craving, I called him. He understood what I was going through. We both understood I would have to go through it to get through it, and it would get better. "It" was the withdrawal, the cravings, the mood swings, the crazy behavior.

I was told to exercise to burn up the energy from the craving and the increased sugar intake. I was also told to pray. I did both.

"It" did get better.

I followed this up with hypnotherapy. The pain continued to subside.

Occasionally, I still get cravings, but I recall the pain I went through. I know I don't want to go through that again, and the cravings don't last long.

If you are considering quitting, there are all kinds of programs and methods. None will work unless you get that "want to" first. I hope you get it.

Good luck and I'll see you on coffee break - in the non-smoking section of the coffee shop!

LSUS CAMPUS MINISTRY
"Where everyone matters."

EVERY TUESDAY 10:30 AM

Captain's Room University Center

All members of the campus community, including students, faculty, and staff, are invited to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurture, and opportunities for Christian service.

For more information contact:

Dan Fultz 869-5024

Want good resume material?

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Join the *Almagest* staff!

Come by room 344 in Bronson Hall for details...

Shut Up and Stop Whining!

Michelle Davison
Guest Columnist

Attention all females! You are a victim! Or are you a male? Okay, you are a victim, too! Black? Victim! White? Victim! Blond? Victim! Brunette? Victim! Human? Victim! Animal? Victim! Living? Victim! Dead? Victim!

Okay, so now we have established that if you are a carbon based life form, you are a victim. Now, get over it! As hard as it sometimes is for us to hear, everybody has problems, everybody is a victim of something and nobody wants to hear you whine about how you are a victim of your problems.

There are really only two solutions: either you suck it up, accept problems as a fact of life and move on; or you wallow in self-pity, blame society for your problems and do nothing. Unfortunately, we as a country have been moving far too rapidly towards the second solution. If you can't find a job, it is because there are no jobs available, not because you are just not willing to take a job at McDonald's until something better comes along. If you are an abusive spouse, it is because you had a bad childhood, not because you can not control your own temper. There excuses are endless. Well, I personally have had it. If you think you are a victim - I do not want to hear about it, because the only reason you are a victim is because you are allowing yourself to be one.

I have a friend who is being abused by a boyfriend that she refuses to leave. On one of the occasions when he was beating her, he got caught and was sentenced to mandatory counseling. Now he is angry and resentful and considers himself to be a victim of the court system. Unfortunately for him he bothered to consider what the consequences of his actions might be, so instead of accepting the blame for what he did, he is trying to pass it off on the criminal justice system. Even national leaders have this victimization affliction. When Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry was busted for drug possession, many black leaders screamed foul play and insisted that he was a victim of racism. They never wanted to accept the fact that if he had not placed himself in the position he was in, there would have been no way to entrap him. He did it to himself. Unfortunately, he was not only re-elected but made into a martyr because of the incident.

And so the lesson goes on. And younger generations learn that they never have to be responsible for anything they ever do. Just find a scapegoat and you are in the clear. After all, you are a victim.

S P O R T S

Intermural Basketball: Scare, Scream, Suspense

Brian Allen
Almagest

A big scare for a top team, a team forfeiting out of the league, and the suspension of a key player on one of LSUS' best teams were the most notable results of the final week of regular season intramural basketball.

It all started last Monday when 2nd II None barely escaped with a 74 - 71 win over the Hack Pack. 2nd II None had to forfeit to Click because only four of their players were present at a 6:00 start time, and another loss would have it starting the week 0 - 2. For a team that hasn't lost two games in the same week, two in one night may have been disastrous. But it was back to basics Wednesday night when they drilled And 1 69 - 39.

As for And 1, the team forfeited two games last week to drop out of intramural play cutting the number of teams eligible for the postseason to seven. (The Dream Team forfeited their second game two weeks ago and are also out.) One can mark the passing of an intramural season by the oh-so-gentle sound of teams falling by the wayside. Rumor has it intramural officials are working on a formula that will convert the number of teams that start a season to the number of teams that will actually complete it.

But the most controversial story of the week is the suspension of Herb Jones, one of the leading scorers for Click, the #3 seed in the upcoming playoffs. Jones was suspended for unsportmanlike conduct and dunking on the rim in the H.P.E. Building, which is strictly prohibited. Jones said he was told by referees before the Wed. March 13 game that dunking would be permitted. He believes his suspension was a personal matter, and that intramural officials are biased against his team and their trash talking, acrobatic antics. The suspension would last throughout the playoffs, leaving Click to find other ways to account for his 20 plus points per game. The team is appealing his suspension to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Gloria Raines, and hopes to have him back by next Tuesday's championship game. From a prepared statement by Jones:

"I do not feel that I was treated justly, All season long we have been instructed to do as the refs say, and on this occasion I was punished for doing so. My expulsion was unfair and the only reparation I ask for is reinstatement into the league and to my team."

Student Activities Director Karen Mischlich stood by her decision, and said the rules of intramural sports and the penalties for breaking them are outlined in printed handouts. She went on to explain that these rules are again reviewed in team captains' meetings. Mischlich went on to say:

"Herb was disrespectful to intramural officials, myself, and Lori Korman (Assistant Director of Student Activities). He received a warning in a prior game."

As for Jones' contention that he was told dunking would be permitted, she said:

"My officials know that dunking is against the rules, and appropriate action has been taken." She said she would prefer not to elaborate on exactly what that action was.

This story is far from over, as Jones' off-the-court battle is being waged as his team continues in the playoffs. On Mon. March 18 Click steamrolled the #6 seeded Tau Kappa Epsilon 141-42. But lest readers leap to the conclusion that Jones' presence isn't needed, keep in mind that Click's one loss was at the hands of 2nd II None with Jones in the lineup. To defeat 2nd II None in what appears to be the inevitable championship game matchup, Click will need big games from all its players in its lineup. If Jones' bid for reinstatement fails, Click will find itself needing the play of someone who will be forced to watch from the sidelines.

Final Regular Season Standings

TEAM	RECORD	LSUS*
Six S.	6-2	4-0
2nd II None	13-1	8-1
Clcik	13-1	7-1
Hack Pack	4-10	3-5
Hoop Dreams	6-8	2-3
Tau Kappa Epsilon	2-6	1-4
Kappa Sigma	0-4	0-3

*Games played against LSU Medical Center opponents are not used to determine playoff rankings

S P O R T S

Some Weeks Are like that

Brian Allen
Almagest

Some weeks it simply doesn't pay for a young team to take the field, and a week featuring NCAA hard hitters Northeast Louisiana University and Centenary College is just that sort of week. Northeast hammered LSUS 24 - 4 on last Thursday, and Centenary won 12 - 4 on Friday and 7 - 3 on Saturday.

The Northeast Indians set a record for a Pilot opponent with their 24 run, 21 hit performance, and did it in front of the LSUS home crowd. They cranked four homeruns, including a 1st inning grand slam by first baseman Andy Russell that set the tone for the onslaught. LSUS cut the lead to 4 - 2 with a 2nd inning rally as the Indians took a short nap on defense. Pilot first baseman David Constant reached base on an error by NLU shortstop Tommy Smith, and took second on a wild pitch by Tiger Bell. Bell then walked third baseman Micah Rockwell, who moved to second on another wild pitch. Designated hitter Jeff Smith walked to load the bases and set the stage for a possible comeback. Catcher Chris Beddoe hit into a fielder's choice allowing Constant and Rockwell to score. Suddenly, it looked as if the Indians might have a battle on their hands.

But in the 3rd inning, things unraveled faster than a ball of yarn caught in a hurricane. A two - run homer by NLU catcher David Foster started off an eight - run inning that buried any and all hope of an LSUS win. After giving up nine runs and seven hits in 2 2/3 innings, Steven Prejeant gave way to Jason Lafitte, who couldn't stop the bleeding either. He was nailed for eight runs in his one inning, and the rout was on. LSUS added two more runs to make the final tally 24 - 4 as they fell to 7 - 8, with Prejeant taking the loss (2 - 3). Northeast upped their mark to 14 - 9, with Tiger Bell recovering from his shaky start to remain undefeated (2 - 0). Bell pitched four innings, giving up one hit and two runs.

It was the second verse of the same song as Centenary pounded out 12 runs on 18 hits in Friday's game. The Gents proved rather ungracious hosts, starting their scoring with a three - run 2nd inning and then piling on more runs as the game progressed. LSUS relied on its outfield to keep it in the game, as center fielder Colby Hand went 3 for 5 and right fielder Will Ward went 3 for 3. Second baseman Mike Hickok led the RBI charge with three, but all their efforts were rendered useless as Centenary exploded for five runs in the 8th inning, led by left fielder Scott Tafoya's grand slam. (Two of those in the same week is never a good sign, particularly when both belong to the opposition.) The 12 - 4 loss dropped LSUS to 7 - 9, with Damion Magee taking the loss (0 - 3). Magee pitched five innings, allowing six runs on ten hits. Centenary moved to 8 - 13 buoyed by the pitching of B.J. Ryan (2 - 4), who lasted eight innings giving up four runs on eleven hits while posting six strikeouts.

LSUS played Centenary much closer here at University Park, showing an ability to adjust to a well - armed opponent. If not for a four - run 6th inning by the Gents, the Pilots might have emerged victorious. The game was knotted at two when Centenary right fielder David Turkoly doubled to set the table for his teammates. Turkoly scored when shortstop Brian Thomas tripled to give the Gents a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Pilot pitcher Toby Edmunds began to lose his command of the strike zone as he walked NLU second baseman Rob Kenney, who stole second. Chuck Lederer came in to pinch hit, and ended up getting hit by a pitch. Designated hitter Dustin Brandon was walked, but if you've been following closely you know there was no place to put him. The walk scored Thomas and LSUS brought in Jason Lafitte to relieve Edmunds. B.J. Ryan, now playing first base, victimized the Pilots for the second straight game. His single knocked in two runs and put the game out of reach as Centenary won 7 - 3. Centenary moved to 10 - 13, Trey Poland spreading three runs and six hits throughout nine innings of work. Poland struck out eleven to even his record at 3 - 3. Toby Edmunds took the loss, allowing eight hits and six runs over 5 2/3 innings, dropping his record to 2 - 2. LSUS falls to 7 - 10, but is 6 - 2 in the NAIA Southwest Regional Standings that are used to determine whether a team reaches the postseason.

With NCAA juggernauts out of the way for a while the Pilots return to action Thursday, March 21 at University Park for a 2:00 game against Tabor College. This will be game one of a seven - game homestand for the Pilots. Admission,as always,is free to students with valid ID.

Third Baseman Micah Rockwell's picture was inadvertantly dropped from the last issue of the Almagest. Here it is!

Pilot Baseball Schedule

Thur.	March 21	Tabor College	LSUS	2 p.m.
Thur.	March 28	Mount Senario College	LSUS	1 p.m.
Sat.	March 30	Lyon College	LSUS	1 p.m.
Mon.	April 1	Loyola University	LSUS	1 p.m.
Thur.	April 4	University of Mobile	Mobile	1 p.m.

Campus Organizations

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION
Activities: Bible studies, discipleships groups, mission action
Meets: 11:00 and 12;00 p.m. Wed. and Thurs. at 7 p.m.
Contact Skip Noble, 797-1946

COLLEAGUES
Activities: Volunteer services for Volunteers of America, parties
Meets: Tues 10:30 a.m.
Contact Skip Noble, Jim Hicks, 797-5102

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS
Activites: Guest speakers, work in political campaigns
Meets: every Tues. at beginning of month
Contact:Dr. Jefferey Sadow, 797-5159

GOLDEN Z CLUB
Activities: Projects focusing on illiteracy, the enviroment, scholarships avail.Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues. each month.Contact: Anita Harkness, 797-1946

MAINSTREAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Meets: Tues. and Thurs. 10:30 a.m.
Activities: Outdoor concerts, weekend fellowships and trips, volunteer work .
Contact: Lori Bennet, 797-1946

RANGERS
Meets: TBA
Activities: Realistic combat training (repelling, weapons), social activities.
Contact:SFC Perry Buchanan, 797-5122

S'PORT/BOSSIER CAMPUS MINISTRY
Meets: Tues. 10:30 a.m.in UC
Activities: Weekly devotionals, socials, service proj., retreats.
Contact: Dan Fultz 869-5024

SPJ-LSUS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST
Activities: Guest speakers on topics related to the field of Journalism. social functions.
Contact:Michelle Millhollen, 746-7860

TAE KWON DO
Meets: TBA
Activities: Campus events, tournaments, self-defense clinics, rape prevention
Contact: Regina Washington,631-9976

WEIGHTLIFTING
Meets: TBA
Activities: Workouts, clinics, competition in local, state, nat'l meets.
Contact: Kyle Pierce. 797-5271

ACJS/ Lamda Alpha Epsilon
Meets: 1st and 3rd Thurs. ea month
Activities: Various community activities, speakers on criminal justice topics.
Contact: Dr. Bernadette Jones Palombo 797-5343.

LAMDA SIGMA EPSILON, BIOLOGY/HEALTH SCIENCE CLUB
Meets: Tues. or Thurs. Common Hour
Activities: Community service, fund raising, hiking, bird watching, tours
Contact: Dr. James Ingold, 797-5244

DRAMA CLUB
Meets: Tues.,Thurs.10:30 a.m. BH 330
Activities: Dramatic productions, 1st-hand info on auditions in local prod., volunteer work.
Contact:Jorji Jarzabek, 797-5228

ENGLISH CLUB
Meets: 2nd Tues. ea. month
Activities: Annual book fair, poetry readings, faculty presentations, socials.
Contact:Tom Dubose, 797-5158

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Meets: 1st Tues. each month
Activities: Guest Speakers, films,cultural and charity events.
Contact: Lynn Walford 797-5245

GOVERNMENT & LAW SOCIETY
Meets: once a month
Activities: Speakers & debates, etc.
Contact: Prof. William D. Pederson, 797-5351

HEALTH & PHYS. ED. CLUB
Meets: Tues. or Thurs. 10:30
Activities: "Almost Anything Goes" for LSUS, judge field days for elementary's
Contact: Maxie Foster, 797-7294

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS
Meets: Once a month, common hour
Activities: Student Teacher reception, guest speakers, workshops
Contact: Cindy Olson, 797-5032

MBA ASSOCIATION
Meets: once a month
Activities: Seminars with guest speakers on career planning and resume writing, social activities.
Contact: Director of Graduate Studies, College of Business, 797-5017

CHEMISTRY CLUB
Meets: 10:30 a.m. 1st Thurs. ea. month
Activities: Group activities
Contact: Dr. Wayne Gustavson, 797-5091

PI SIGMA EPSILON, MKT & MNGMT
Meets: 2nd & 4th Tues. monthly 10:30
Activities: Conduct sales & mkt. proj. for local bus., social functions.
Contact: Ms. Gayle Norton, 797-5268

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB
Meets: 1st & 3rd Thurs. monthly 10:30
Activities: Meetings with topics, ie. family violence & therapy. field trips
Contact: Kelly Haydel, 797-5057

PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENTS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Meets: twice monthly
Activities: Guest speakers, learn basics of public relations, networking, national and dis. PRSSA meetings, luncheons.
Contact: Kathy Smith, 797-5340

SOCIAL WORK/SOCIOLOGY CLUB
Meets: every other Thurs.
Activities: Guest speakers on psych related topics, community svc. projects
Contact: Ms. Kenna Franklin, Dr. Dolch, 797-5351

SOCIETY or HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Meets: 1st & 3rd Tues. ea. month
Activities: Seminars, guest speaker luncheons at the University Club, Mentorship prog.
Contact: Gwen Smith 797-5024 & Dr. Vassar, 797-5020

STUDENT COUNCIL for EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Meets: 1st & 3rd Fri. monthly
Activities: Service proj. involving handicapped children.
Contact:Dr. Alan Thompson & joe Patrick, 797-5390

ROTORAC
Meets: Two meetings per month
Activities:Student service org. One service project per semester, luncheons
Contact:Dr. Paul Merckle, 797-5240

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT CAMPUS LIFE?

IF SO, SHARE THEM WITH THE REST OR THE STUDENT BODY AT THE SGA SPONSORED

STUDENT FORUM!

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 1996
AT 10:25 IN THE U.C. THEATER

EVERYONE WELCOME!!! PLEASE COME!!!

Campus Calender

March 20-23	English Club Mini-book Sale - 2nd floor Bronson Hall
March 25-29	SGA Elections by phone - 798-LSUS
March 26	SGA Student Forum - 10:30 in the UC Theater
March 27	Red Johnny and the Round Guy - 7:30 in UC Theater
	Shreveport Astronomical Society's free Comet Lecture - 7 p.m. in the Science Lecture Auditorium
March 29	Shreveport Astronomical Society's free party - 7 p.m. at the Ralph W. Worley